

REMARKS

The following Remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed July 18, 2007, in which claims 1, 5-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 24-29 were rejected.

With this Amendment, claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 30-34 have been added, and claims 1, 5, 8-11, 20, 24, 25, and 29 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1, 5, 8-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 24-34, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouke et al. US Patent No. 5,077,795 in view of Docter et al. US Patent No. 6,330,610.

Claims 24, 25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouke et al. US Patent No. 5,077,795 and Docter et al. US Patent No. 6,330,610 further in view of Kawamura US Patent No. 5,731,882.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a printer, and clarify that the printer includes **"a filtering program stored in a memory device or firmware of said printer and associated with said processor so as to evaluate a file received at said printer and control printing of said file by said printing component based on at least one prespecified characteristic from a packet including said file,"** wherein **"if said at least one prespecified characteristic is an undesirable characteristic, processing of said file by said printer is terminated and printing of said file by said printer is prevented,"** and wherein **"if said at least one prespecified characteristic is a desirable characteristic, processing of said file by said printer proceeds and printing of said file by said printer is conducted."**

With this Amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the method includes **"controlling processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said printer based on said evaluating, including preventing processing and printing of said at least one file by said printer if said at least one prespecified characteristic is an undesirable characteristic, and permitting processing and printing of said at least one**

Amendment and Response

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Docket No.: 10012900-1

Title: DEVICE-SPECIFIC FIREWALL

file by said printer if said at least one prespecified characteristic is a desirable characteristic."

With this Amendment, independent claim 20 has been amended to clarify that the system includes **"a filtering program associated with said processor so as to evaluate said at least one file at said printer and control printing of said at least one file by said printer based on at least one prespecified characteristic from a packet including said at least one file,"** wherein **"printing of said at least one file by said printer is prevented if said at least one prespecified characteristic is an undesirable characteristic,"** and wherein **"printing of said at least one file by said printer is conducted if said at least one prespecified characteristic is a desirable characteristic."**

With respect to the Rouke, Docter, and Kawamura patents, Applicant submits that these patents, individually or in combination, do not disclose a printer as claimed in independent claim 1, do not disclose a method as claimed in independent claim 11, and do not disclose a system as claimed in independent claim 20 including evaluating a file at a printer and controlling printing of the file by the printer based on a prespecified characteristic from a packet including the file, wherein processing of the file by the printer is terminated and/or printing of the file by the printer is prevented if the prespecified characteristic is an undesirable characteristic, and wherein processing of the file by the printer proceeds and/or printing of the file by the printer is conducted if the prespecified characteristic is a desirable characteristic.

For example, the Docter patent provides a system capable of filtering data in multiple stages, with each stage of filtering using different filtering criteria (col. 1, lines 7-9). More specifically, the Docter patent provides that in a first stage, data filtering can be performed by a server (i.e., a first device) using non-private filtering criteria wherein the data that passes through the filter at the first stage continues to another data filter at a second stage such that the second stage of filtering may be performed by a client or a more trusted server (i.e., a second device), thereby allowing filtering criteria containing private information about the user or organization (col. 3, lines 6-13). The Docter patent, however, does not disclose evaluating a file at a printer and controlling printing of the file by the printer based on a prespecified characteristic from a packet including the file, wherein processing of the file by the printer is terminated and/or printing of the file by the printer is prevented if the

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prespecified characteristic is an undesirable characteristic, and wherein processing of the file by the printer proceeds and/or printing of the file by the printer is conducted if the prespecified characteristic is a desirable characteristic, as claimed in independent claims 1, 11, and 20.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 20, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Rouke, Docter, and Kawamura patents and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 5-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 26-28, and claims 24, 25, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1, 5, 8-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 24-34 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 5, 8-12, 15-17, 20, 21, and 24-34 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan R. Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: OCT. 18, 2007

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